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Trump accuses Iran of 'blood lust' in U.N. speech but says there is path to peace



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As impeachment talk surges, Trump to release transcript of Ukraine call



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to reporters as he arrives to address the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York City, New York, U.S., September 24, 2019. REUTERS/Yana Paskova

UNITED NATIONS/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he has authorized the release of a transcript of his phone call with Ukraine's president that is at the center of a growing controversy over whether he sought foreign help in smearing a political rival as support surged among Democrats to pursue impeachment. The Washington Post reported that House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi would announce a formal impeachment inquiry later in the day. Pelosi is scheduled to make a public statement at 5 p.m. ET (2100 GMT). During an appearance at an event sponsored by The Atlantic magazine, Pelosi declined to say what action she planned, but told the audience, "It's absolutely, absolutely essential that the president be held accountable. No one is above the law." A Republican, Trump on Tuesday confirmed he had withheld nearly \$400 million in U.S. aid to Ukraine but denied he did so as leverage to get Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to initiate an investigation that would damage Joe Biden, the front-runner for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. Pelosi to announce impeachment inquiry on Tuesday: Washington Post
Pelosi to make statement on Trump investigations later on Tuesday
In Washington, Pelosi was meeting with fellow Democratic lawmakers to consider impeachment of the president, who has withstood repeated scandals since taking office in January 2017.

In a Twitter post, Trump said a "complete, fully declassified and unredacted" transcript of the July 25 call would be released on Wednesday. Trump said the transcript would show the call was "totally appropriate," that he had not pressured Zelenskyy to investigate Biden and that there had been no "quid pro quo" for U.S. aid in exchange for a probe. Quid pro quo is a Latin phrase meaning a favor that is exchanged for a favor. Trump has produced no evidence of wrongdoing by Biden or his son. In remarks to reporters over the intensifying controversy, Trump indicated there was nothing sinister about withholding the aid but that he wanted Europe and not just the United States to step up and provide Ukraine assistance. The money was later released by the Trump administration. In a public statement set for later in the day, Biden will call on Congress to impeach Trump if the president does not comply with congressional requests for information on Ukraine and other matters, a spokesman for the former U.S. vice president said. Trump is seeking re-election in November 2020. Trump on Sunday acknowledged that he had discussed Biden and Biden's son Hunter, who had worked for a company drilling for gas in Ukraine, with Zelenskyy. U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to reporters as he arrives to address the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York City, New York, U.S., September 24, 2019. REUTERS/Yana Paskova
But Trump on Monday denied trying to coerce Zelenskyy in the phone call to launch a corruption investigation into Biden ahis

son in return for the U.S. military aid.

WANTED MONEY FROZEN

Arriving at the United Nations before his speech to the annual General Assembly on Tuesday, Trump confirmed that he had wanted the money for Ukraine frozen, saying European countries should provide assistance to Kiev, but changed his mind after "people called me." The United States has been providing military aid to Ukraine since Russia annexed Crimea in 2014. The \$391.5 million in aid at issue in the current controversy was approved by the U.S. Congress to assist Ukraine in dealing with an insurgency by Russian-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country. Trump's explanation for withholding the aid differed from one he offered a day earlier when he said, referring to Ukraine, "We want to make sure that country is honest," and "Why would you give money to a country that you think is corrupt?" About the call itself, Trump told reporters on Tuesday: "... when you see the readout of the call, which I assume you'll see at some point, you'll understand. That call was perfect. It couldn't have been nicer." The controversy came to light after a whistleblower from within the U.S. intelligence community lodged a complaint with an internal watchdog about Trump's conversation with Zelenskyy, leading to calls from some Democrats that Trump be impeached for trying to enlist a foreign power to smear a domestic opponent.

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Trump accuses Iran of 'blood lust' in U.N. speech but says there is path to peace

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday denounced Iran's "blood lust" and called on other nations to join the United States to pressure Iran after attacks on Saudi oil facilities, but said there is a path to peace.

"America knows that while anyone can make war, only the most courageous can choose peace," Trump said in an address to the United Nations General Assembly annual gathering of world leaders.

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In his third annual U.N. appearance, Trump offered a more subdued tone compared to the bombast of his previous speeches to the U.N. in 2017 and 2018, looking to convey a more reassuring presence as he asks Americans for a second term next year despite a fresh push for his impeachment among some Democrats.

While offering his habitual defense of national sovereignty - "the future must never belong to globalists" - Trump tempered his language, stressing the U.S. desire for peaceful relations with all and calling for collective, rather than unilateral, action.

The response to Trump in the chamber was relatively muted, a year after the crowd laughed when he boasted about his achievements and gasped in 2017 when he threatened to wipe out North Korea.

The Sept. 14 attacks in Saudi Arabia, widely blamed on Iran, have rattled the Middle East and raised concerns about a broader war. Iran denies involvement. Trump has shown restraint in the crisis, holding back from military retaliation

despite pressure from conservative hawks, at least for now.

But he promised to keep trying to squeeze Iran's economy with sanctions until Tehran agrees to give up what Washington says is a pursuit of nuclear weapons. Iran has said its nuclear program has always been for peaceful purposes only.

U.S. President Donald Trump addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York City, New York, U.S., September 24, 2019. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson

"All nations have a duty to act. No responsible government should subsidize Iran's blood lust. As long as Iran's menacing behavior continues sanctions will not be lifted, they will be tightened," Trump said.

Trump had a stern message for China and its president, Xi Jinping, with whom he is locked in a trade war that is damaging both their economies. He said the world is watching how Beijing handles mass demonstrations in Hong Kong that have heightened fears of a potential Chinese crackdown.

How China chooses to handle the situation will say a great deal about its role in the world in the future. We are all counting on President Xi as a great leader," he said.

Trump has sought to pressure China to agree to reduce trade barriers through a policy of increasing tariffs on Chinese products. He said China is taking advantage of World Trade Organization rules that give Beijing beneficial treatment as a "developing economy."

"Hopefully we can reach an agreement that will be beneficial to both countries. But as I have made clear I will not accept a bad deal for the American people," Trump said.

Trump was tough on Iran and its leadership, with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in New York



U.S. President Donald Trump addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York City, New York, U.S., September 24, 2019. REUTERS/Lucas Jackson

for U.N. activities amid speculation about whether they might meet to discuss their differences.

With an Iranian diplomat seated in Iran's second-row seat for Trump's speech, Rouhani was at his New York hotel, not in the U.N. chamber.

In remarks to media on Tuesday Rouhani said he was open to discuss small changes, additions or amendments to a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six major powers if the United States lifted sanctions imposed on the Islamic republic.

French President Emmanuel Macron, trying to create conditions for talks between the United States and Iran, said he hoped there could be progress on Iran on Tues-

day after he held talks with Rouhani on Monday.

"We have to get back around the table to have a frank and demanding discussion," Macron told reporters.

Over the past week, Trump has tightened economic sanctions on Iran and ordered more U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in a show of support for those U.S. allies in the tense region.

"America is ready to embrace friendship to all who genuinely seek peace and respect," Trump said. "The United States has never believed in permanent enemies. We want partners, not adversaries."

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Editor's Choice



U.S. President Trump meets with British Prime Minister Johnson on sidelines of U.N. General Assembly in New York City



U.S. President Donald Trump addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York City, New York, U.S.



A young boy holds up a sign as Pete Buttigieg, South Bend Mayor and Democratic presidential hopeful, speaks at a campaign event in Dubuque



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) walks to a government vehicle after speaking at an American Federation of Government Employees labor union rally at the U.S. Capitol in Washington



Demonstrators react on the ruling of the Supreme Court during a protest outside the Supreme Court in London



University students protest outside the Indonesian Parliament in Jakarta



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan holds up a photograph as he addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York City, New York, U.S.



U.S. President Donald Trump arrives for the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York City, New York, U.S.

Spectacular Bridge Sculpture Opens in Venice, Italy



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

An unusual bridge opened in Venice May 11, 2019. The Italian artist Lorenzo Quinn presented his newest sculpture, "Building Bridges", a work of art that consists of six pairs of giant hands, which hang in the form of a bridge over the Venetian Arsenal. Its height is 15 meters, and its width is 20 meters. The "bridge" is located in the area of Castello - the medieval shipyard, which is considered one of the key attractions of the city. The artist calls on people to pay attention to common values and to meet each other, "Humanity does not grow by creating barriers. It has always grown, opening its borders and welcoming new cultures. Venice is a testament to this. The city opened routes to Asia, to the Far East thanks to Marco Polo and merchants. It has always been the driving force of European growth. Venice - is a city of world heritage and a city of bridges. It is an ideal place to tell mankind about the ideas of unity and peace and to encourage more people around the world to build bridges instead of building walls and barriers," said the Italian sculptor Nsky.



The sculpture was opened as part of the 58th Venice Biennale of Contemporary Art. The opening ceremony was attended by the world-famous pianist Lola Astanova, the mayor of Venice and the world reknown Italian singer Andrea Bocelli. "Each pair of hands symbolizes one of six universal values: friendship - to create the future together; wisdom - to make mutually beneficial decisions; help - to strengthen long-term relationships; faith is a symbol of trust in your heart; hope - to continue important undertakings; love is a fundamental goal all of this," explained the artist.



The world-famous pianist Lola Astanova and the world reknown Italian singer Andrea Bocelli performed at the opening of the "Building Bridges" sculpture in Venice.

The artist Lorenzo Quinn has been widely recognized for his work from all over the world. He is the son of the famous

actor, Academy Award winner Anthony Quinn. In all his works, the artist reveals the themes of love and relationships through very unusual forms, including depicting giant human hands. His sculpture "Support", also created in Venice, became the most photographed work of art in 2017. Then through the image of gigantic human hands, he tried to call people for delicate coexistence.



Two years ago, in conjunction with the 2017 Venice Biennale, he created Support, two big hands that supported Ca' Sagredo on the Grand Canal to raise awareness about climate change. Now with Building Bridges - the name of this sculpture - the artist wants to celebrate the six universal values of man: love, friendship, wisdom, help, faith and hope with six pairs of hands that they make up a bridge and on the whole they tell how with cooperation between people it is possible to achieve great goals for the community.

The work, located at the Arsenale of Venice and which has colossal dimensions, 15 meters by 25, within a few days has become, despite being outside the official circuit, the symbol of the Biennale d'Arte.



Interview With The Artist Lorenzo Quinn

Lorenzo Quinn, born and raised in Rome, is an internationally renowned artist with several personal exhibitions - including those at Halcyon which boasts three locations in London and one in Shanghai - and many public sculptures housed in some of the world's great capitals includ-

ing London, Mumbai, Shanghai, Barcelona, Hog Kong, Birmingham and Doha. Forbes.it met Lorenzo Quinn to ask him some questions regarding his new sculpture.

How are your works born?

First individual a theme - which can be personal or of general interest - and what I want to convey because for me it is important that art is a dialogue with the viewer, then I choose the title and some adjectives that can describe the idea and only then I realize the first sketch.

In your art, therefore, the need to transmit a message is correct, correct?

Absolutely yes. I believe in the fourth dimension of art: the message. Art is a universal language and for this reason I have taken the commitment to create works that can be understood by anyone. I absolutely do not want to say that it is enough to create a work to improve themes of general importance but I believe that art can serve to improve the condition of the world.



How do you get to Building Bridges?

I am an artist but also a father and therefore I ask myself about the world we will leave to our children. The first work I did in Venice was called "This is not a game" and depicted two hands blocking a tank. In that case, I wanted to raise public awareness of the war as there was a time of conflict. In 2017 with Support, instead, I wanted to address the issue of climate change. Now with Building Bridges I want to talk about humanity and collaboration between people as an essential element to improve the world. I think it is important to do this because the concept of collective humanity is being lost. My work is an invitation to perform an action.

Making a work of such dimension is

complex, does it tell us about the main phases?

I thought about this work about 18 months ago and after the first renderings I presented it to the municipal administration, which I thank for the support it has always given me over the years. Once they got their approval, we started working thanks to the financial support of the Halcyon Gallery in London. Five months ago, when I still didn't have the final installation ok and I didn't know where it would be placed, I started to produce it anyway because otherwise we wouldn't have arrived in time. A few weeks ago, with all the authorizations in order, we installed it after making some technical changes. It was a great team work as around 350 people with different skills worked on the project.



What will become of Building Bridges after the period of the Art Biennale?

I would like this sculpture of mine to continue to have a life. I have two dreams but I prefer to keep them for myself at the moment.

Have you already developed some ideas for the 2021 Biennale?

Yes, I only say that the work will not represent hands. I want to do something different.

In his art the message is important, this is very reminiscent of street art, what is the idea of street art?

I really like street art and I follow it. I think it's a necessary art form since not all artists have the chance to have the support to get to the galleries. There are terribly beautiful works that can send very strong and direct messages. (Courtesy <https://forbes.it/>)



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SPECIAL REPORT

Oil War On The Horizon?

Iran Threatens To Disrupt Oil Exports From The Persian Gulf



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Recent developments in the Persian Gulf demonstrate that Iran has taken a strategic decision to respond to escalating U.S. financial and diplomatic pressure against it by threatening the ability of Arab Sunni states—bitter rivals of Iran and allies of America—to export oil to the world.

The message from the Islamic Republic to the Trump administration is clear: If Iran won't be able to export its oil, neither will its Arab Sunni neighbors—and so the entire global market is at risk of disruption and destabilization.

This is a direct response to the ever-tightening sanctions being placed on Tehran by Washington. Recent U.S. steps include Trump's decision in April to cancel sanction waivers to eight countries that purchase Iranian oil. In recent days, the United States imposed new sanctions on Iranian industrial metals.



President Trump vows to bring about "the official end of Iran" if it threatens the US again.

Last month, the State Department classified its Islamic Republican Guards Corps (IRGC)—a major player in Iran's regional power projection, terrorism network and inside Iran's economy—as a terrorist organization. The latter move is one that some in the American defense establishment assessed could result in retribution.

The decision by Iran to retaliate and extract "a price" for these moves must have been approved by Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei. It has already been translated into action on the ground, with two attacks on oil sites in recent days.

The first occurred the UAE, in which four commercial ships were damaged in sabotage attacks by an oil-tanker hub near the Straits of Hormuz—a major international oil-shipping artery that Iran has threatened in the past. The second attack took place in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, targeting oil facilities near the Saudi capital of Riyadh with explosive drones.

It is safe to assume that the IRGC is behind

both attacks, even if its role in the second incident was limited to passing on instructions to the Iranian-backed Houthi organization in Yemen to launch the drones.



Iran maintains a large network of terrorist, heavily armed proxies throughout the region, giving it the ability of hitting targets while maintaining a facade of plausible deniability.

Its targeting of these sites is no coincidence, as Tehran is particularly enraged by statements from Saudi Arabia pledging to keep the oil-production market steady to make up for the drastic reduction in Iran's oil exports. On April 24, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani stated that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates "owed their existence to Iran" because the Iranians had refused to help former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invade the two countries. The speech was part of a rebuke of those Gulf states for their willingness to assist the American sanctions. It appears as if the rebuke did not end at the rhetorical level.

Tehran pushes back in calculated approach

Iran's actions are not limited to escalating the security situation in the Gulf.



The U.S. Administration has branded the

Iranian Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) as a terrorist organization.

It has also imposed an ultimatum on the European Union, giving it 60 days to rescue the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran is demanding that Europe come through on financial mechanisms that would allow it to bypass American oil and banking sanctions.

To make it clear that it is serious, the Islamic Republic declared that it would stop observing limits for stockpiling low-enriched uranium, which the nuclear deal limits to 300 kilograms, and its heavy water (which can be used to produce plutonium). Tehran said the nuclear agreement allows it to take these steps if other members of the deal exit it, as the United States had done in May 2018.

Iran is threatening, in essence, to walk away from the nuclear deal if the Europeans cannot shield it from Trump's sanctions. So far, the E.U.'s leaders have made due with calling on Iran to refrain from any dangerous steps.

Ultimately, Iran is so far telling the United States that it will not succumb to pressure tactics designed to get it back to the negotiating table, which is Trump's openly stated goal. Washington wants to drag Iran back to talks in order to come up with a better nuclear deal, as well as address Iran's destructive, aggressive conduct throughout the Middle East.



The US has sent warships and missiles to the Middle East amid Iran tensions.

This approach was summed up last year by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his 12 demands of Iran, which include ending support for its network of terrorist proxies and an end to its ballistic-missile program.

The Iranians are signaling that they have no

intention of going down that route, even if Pompeo's demands represent an "opening position" in Trump's bargaining tactics.

Meanwhile, America is flexing its own military muscle, both through the mobilization of a carrier strike group to the region and through media reports. This includes Monday's New York Times report, describing how Trump's security team are weighing the sending of a massive U.S. force of 120,000 soldiers, backed by air and naval firepower assets, should Iran resume its nuclear program or attack U.S. forces in Iraq, Syria or at sea.

At this stage, Iran appears to be pursuing a calculated and phased approach, which is limited to sending warnings. But it is a dangerous new development in the standoff with Iran, which is prone to miscalculations and rapid escalations, even if they are unintended.



With no one blinking at this stage, Israel will need to be on high alert for Iranian proxy attacks on it. Whether from Syria or Lebanon—where Iran has built an armed force that has more firepower than most militaries in the world—or in Gaza, Iran has the ability to drag Israel into the fray should the situation escalate further. (Courtesy jns.org)

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